



CALPEEK

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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(310) 659-0205

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SECRETARY OF STATE BATTLE: JONES VS. MILLER

Editor's note: Here is another in our series of reports about down-ballot races. This week: the battle for Secretary of State (SOS) with 15 days left...

...The latest L.A. Times survey of likely voters gives GOP Assemblyman Bill Jones of Fresno a lead of 31% to 26% over Acting Sec. of State Tony Miller (D) of Sacramento. The most recent Field Poll shows Miller with a 2-pt. lead. Most sources think that going into the final two weeks, Jones will *have an edge*, but aren't predicting a Jones win. Like other down-ballot races, the battle for SOS may depend on *voter turnout*...

...Jones went on TV Oct. 18 with a positive :30 sec. bio spot that highlights his co-authorship of the "3 Strikes" law. In fundraising, Jones had a big lead in total amount raised & cash-on-hand through Sept. 30th because he had no primary opponent, whereas Miller had a tough primary. Thus Miller, with only \$116,000 cash-on-hand at the end of September, is **not** in good shape and at this point can't afford TV. However, he will have a solid radio buy...

...There are some last minute fundraising events for Miller, but the question insiders are asking is why hasn't Miller, who is openly gay, gone to the gay & lesbian community for fundraising help? Sources believe Miller has made a deliberate decision to not run as a gay candidate and thus the gay community is not all that supportive. Was this a blunder?? Sources aren't sure. Remember Miller has a **powerful** ballot title --- Acting Sec. of State. The Jones spin on ballot title is that it doesn't mean as much in the general as it did in the primary, where Miller was a total unknown next to Mike Woo and Gwen Moore. But most sources think ballot title *is important* in these down-ballot race that could get lost in the paid TV frenzy of the last few weeks...

...In terms of the *media message*, Miller's media consultant Leo McElroy says it's a classic: well-respected public servant (Miller) VS. a career politician (Jones). The GOP spin is that Jones will bring a fresh approach to a sleepy office that needs new leadership. FYI: the L.A. Times on Oct. 18 endorsed Miller. Stay tuned...

U.S. HOUSE RACES: FALL ELECTION BATTLES

Editor's note: Here is an update on some key U.S. House battles, plus a brief analysis about the GOP plan known as "Contract With America."...

● **Contract With America** - It has become very apparent that the GOP House Leadership's plan known as "Contract With America" has negatives as well as positives. The question is whether the negatives are hurting? Most Demo sources say **yes** and one very well placed conservative source in the Washington DC area told CALPEEK that GOP House Whip Newt Gingrich made a big mistake with this plan and it could cost Republicans control of the House. The Demo counter-spin on the Gingrich plan is that this is a return to the 1980s, with high deficits, tax breaks for the rich, increased defense spending and no solid plan to finance these initiatives, except with massive cuts to the entitlements (Social Security & Medicare). Here in Calif. this attack is being used by a number of Demo incumbents and challengers. Is it working? Don't know yet...

● **36th C.D.** - (Update) Most sources continue to see a tight race between freshman U.S. Rep. Jane Harman (D) and Rancho Palos Verdes Councilwoman Susan Brooks (R), with perhaps a slight edge toward Harman. Brooks continues to run a very aggressive, *in your face* campaign, trying to link Harman to Pres. Bill Clinton and calling Harman "*a hypocritical liberal Washington insider*." The paid media campaign hasn't started just

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yet (but should any day) and aside from a few debates, sources say the campaign has been quiet. But this will change. In terms of fundraising, Brooks needs to raise much more than she has so far in order to really pound home her anti-insider message. Brooks' cash-on-hand as of 9/30 was just \$70,173, compared to Harman's \$469,467. Brooks has had Kemp, Dole and even RNC chair Haley Barbour in the 36th to help, but she still faces a divided GOP base. Her June opponent, Ron Florance, has refused to endorse her and as CALPEEK hit deadline, his attorney was preparing to file a label action against Brooks for statements she made about Florance during the primary. That's not good news for Susan because it's a distraction she doesn't need. No word yet on whether Harman will go after Brooks for taking "the pledge" in DC, but odds are fair-to-good. Brooks has made some staff changes, bringing in Hoy, Schuman & Wear to do media and she's also hired consultant Brian Lungren. John Perkins is now daily mgr, with David Bohline in charge of field operations...

- **3rd C.D.** - If a recent fundraising letter is accurate, U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio of Sacto is in a rough race with hardline conservative Tim LeFever. In an Oct. 4 letter to "friends & supporters," Fazio cmg. mgr. Richard Harris says, "Vic has a race folks. As today's Bee editorial by John Jacobs explains, this is for real." In the second sentence, Harris says LeFever "*makes H.L. Richardson look like a socialist*." The Fazio campaign says that LeFever is running a *stealth campaign* "in the style of his friend Ralph Reed, the executive director of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition." Insiders take LeFever very seriously, but think Fazio will hold on...

- **42nd C.D.** - Veteran Demo U.S. Rep. George Brown Jr. of Colton always runs scared, but seems to always win. In 1992, in a new district with a smaller Demo voter base, Republicans were touting aviator Dick Rutan(R), but Brown mashed him 60% to 40%. Nevertheless, the GOP loves to target Brown. This time his challenger is hardline conservative Robert Guzman. It's a familiar name, because he ran against Lucille Roybal-Allard in 1992. After that loss, he moved to the Rancho Cucamonga. Even though Brown will outspend Guzman, the Goper does have money (\$73,000 c-o-h in his last report) and is trying to link Brown to Pres. Clinton. This is one of those races which we put on our *watch list*, but we're pretty sure Brown will win...

- **43rd C.D.** - (Update) Demo challenger Mark Takano of Riverside is doing better than freshman U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert(R) in the all important fundraising game. Latest reports for the period just ended show Takano raising more than \$190,000 to \$136,000 for Calvert. In cash-on-hand, Takano has \$108,000 to Calvert's \$75,000. Why isn't Calvert doing better? Lots of negatives and perhaps that Calvert poll showing him well ahead of Takano has GOP fatcats/PACs thinking that Calvert doesn't need more help. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's SPIN ON THE GOVERNOR'S DEBATE.

Editor's note: All of the other political columnists, reporters & pundits have given their spin on the gubernatorial debate of Oct. 14th. Now it's our turn...

...Most of the political reporters agreed that Brown won the debate, but did **not** score a "home run" or a "knockout." *Sporting terms* seem to be in fashion when writing these kind of stories. But Sacto BEE columnist Dan Walters gave a more pessimistic view, saying outright that Brown **didn't** win. CALPEEK's assessment: in the 8th inning she hit a solid double and is in scoring position, but voter turnout will determine whether she gets to home plate. In other words, the final outcome of this race is unknown, but at this point Wilson is ahead and the debate didn't change that...

...The best assessment of the debate CALPEEK has read was written by columnist Peter H. King. King's assessment, which CALPEEK shares, is that Brown's performance was good enough to temporarily stop the pundits from writing Brown's political obit. Beyond that, CALPEEK believes Brown's debate win gave her campaign staff (and the Demo voting base) a badly needed morale boost and may have helped her with fundraising, as some campaign contributors were fence sitting, waiting to see how she did...

...But what the political reporters & pundits aren't writing about to any great extent was Gov. Pete Wilson's lackluster performance. He had an *off night* and that's being kind. The Demo spin was that he was *pathetic* and that view is echoed by some hardline conservative detractors of the governor, who plan to vote for Libertarian candidate Richard Rider. All Wilson talked about was Prop. 187 and crime and he gave no hint of what he plans to do for the next four years, should he win reelection. In other words, his *vision*...

Calif.'s future was MIA. Brown's best one liner in the debate was about *her written plan* if elected governor: "Don't read his lips, read my plan."...

...FYI: Currently, political pundits are trying to analyze Brown's disclosure during the debate about her 25-year-old daughter's date rape years ago and how she used that disclosure to push Wilson into a political corner. Was Brown's disclosure planned or off-the-cuff? Most sources think it was planned, although Brown says it wasn't. Regardless, it was a good idea because it somewhat defuses the crime issue and gains sympathy with **women voters**, a bloc which was starting to move away from Brown. Stay tuned...

BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE: NEW POLLING DATA.

Editor's note: Here is the latest polling data from the L.A. Times, Oct. 8-11, 821 likely voters. In addition to the survey, CALPEEK will take a look at Prop. 186, the Single Payer Health Care Initiative and Prop. 187, the SOS Initiative. The numbers in the LAT poll represent responses *when the description of the initiative is read*...

- **Prop. 184 (3 Strikes)**

YES	58%
NO	32%
Don't Know	10%

- **Prop. 187 (SOS - Illegal Immigration)**

YES	59%
NO	33%
Don't Know	8%

- **Prop. 188 (Smoking & Tobacco Initiative)**

YES	49%
NO	43%
Don't Know	8%

- **Prop. 186** - The latest L.A. Times poll shows that opponents of the Single Payer Health Care Initiative are mashing the YES side by a lopsided 64% against to 25% in favor, with 11% undecided. But this is a sampling *after* a description of the measure is read. Turns out that about 54% of the voting public has yet to hear about 186 and this is after the NO side has spent about \$5 million on a massive TV & radio campaign, which is trying to *define* this universal coverage plan as a "budget buster" which would cause a massive tax increase for business and individuals. That's not the whole story, but that's what is getting out...

...But the YES on 186 team says that they're a little shocked that they're not even further behind, given all the negative publicity out of DC about health care reform and the \$5 million already spent here in Calif. Will the race get closer? Perhaps, because *Californians for Health Security* now have 4 radio spots on the air and a TV campaign is in the works. Yes, this plan provides for universal coverage for all **legal residents** of Calif. who have been provided with a Health Security Card. This card is just like your Blue Cross card and can be used anywhere in the U.S. Only difference is that the State of Calif. pays the bill, not Blue Cross. The bit about all **legal residents** is not being pushed by the YES on 186 campaign, but in the opinion of some sources would be a good selling point. In other words, illegals can't come to Calif. to take advantage of this system under 186. Coalition groups within 186 are mostly opposed to Prop. 187 - the SOS initiative, and that's why this aspect of the measure is not being talked about...

- **Prop. 187** - Conservative Ron Unz is no longer alone in his opposition to Prop. 187, the anti-illegal alien measure. High profile conservatives Jack Kemp and William Bennett have both come out in opposition. Why are these GOP conservatives opposed? One insider says Kemp & Bennett are thinking *long term, Big Tent politics*. Changing demographics makes all recent immigrants a key voting bloc. This source says there is an *historic analogy*. In the early 1900s, the GOP made a deliberate effort to win urban, Catholic & Jewish voters. In fact, one of the selling points for William McKinley, Teddy Roosevelt and Charles Evans Hughes was their ability to get these swing votes without alienating rural, white Protestants. But in 1928, when the Demos nominated Al Smith, these swing voters were turned off by GOP Catholic bashing. While Smith lost, these swing voters became a mainstay of the Demo Party coalition which elected Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, etc. It took the GOP 50 years to win back a chunk of this base. Bennett, Kemp & Unz don't want a repeat performance with new immigrants. And that has put them into conflict with the CRP, Gov. Wilson and other conservatives here in Calif. who support 187. FYI: NO on 187 has begun to do regular tracking polls. The latest was done Oct. 16-17, sample size 600. YES 49%, NO 37%, the rest undecided. The Tarrance Group handled the polling. Stay tuned...

L.A. CO. SUP. MOLINA AT CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP.

L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina will present an update on key county issues when she addresses the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Oct. 28, L.A. Hilton Hotel. For info & RSVPs, contact Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

STATEWIDE POLL: NEW POLLING DATA RELEASED.

Editor's note: Here's the latest statewide sampling of voter opinion from the L.A. Times, S.F. Examiner and KCAL-TV. LAT (Oct. 8-11, 821 likely voters); SFE (Oct. 3-5, 817 likely voters); KCAL (Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 600 registered voters)...

Governor	<u>LAT</u>	<u>SFE</u>	<u>KCAL</u>
Wilson(R-Inc.)	54%	47%	48%
Brown(D)	41%	42%	38%

U.S. Senate			
Feinstein(D-Inc.)	49%	45%	44%
Huffington(R)	42%	41%	41%

Lt. Governor	
Davis(D)	49%
Wright(R)	25%

Attorney General	
Lungren(R-Inc.)	45%
Umberg(D)	30%

Secretary of State	
Jones(R)	31%
Miller(D)	26%

Treasurer	
Fong(R)	39%
Angelides(D)	29%

Controller	
Connell(D)	35%
McClintock(R)	33%

Insurance Commissioner	
Torres(D)	36%
Quackenbush(R)	34%

...**Odds & Ends**...Gov. Pete Wilson(R) has been endorsed by L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and Peter Ueberroth. Why did Riordan endorse Wilson? Wilson endorsed Riordan...State Sen. Art Torres(D) got the endorsement of the L.A. Times in his bid to become Insurance Comm., while his GOP rival, Assemblyman Chuck Quackenbush, won the endorsement of Radio Station KNX...Both candidates for controller, Demo

Kathleen Connell and GOPer Tom McClintock, got short-changed by the L.A. Times, with a major story by reporter Carl Ingram appearing in the little-read Saturday edition and *buried* in the middle of the paper. Connell ended up with the LAT endorsement on Oct. 19...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **"The Terrible Ten"** - Voters Alliance for Childrer based in S.F. has released its list of those CA Legislators who had a zero record of voting for bills to improve children's lives. Assembly members on the "Terrible Ten Anti-Child" list are Barbara Alby, Trice Harvey, Ross Johnson, Bill Jones, David Knowles, Curt Pringle and Chuck Quackenbush. In the State Senate, those on the list are John Lewis, Don Rogers and Phil Wyman. All of those named are Republicans...

● **Friedman Pays Legal Fees** - Remember how attorney John Moriarity hauled Assemblyman Terry Friedman(D-L.A.) into court over wording in his ballot statement in this battle to win a superior court judgeship?? Moriarity came out on top in this legal battle and now Judge John Zebrowski has ordered Friedman to pay court costs of \$12,000. The judge said in court that he "never heard of a ballot statement that was as far off the mark as Mr. Friedman's."...

● **Environmental Politics** - The CA League of Conservation Voters(CLCV) and the Sierra Club of CA are jointly producing a regular fax news sheet called Calif. Eco-Politics. The current issue leads with the Sierra Club/CLCV endorsement of Tom Umberg for AG. In past issues they have listed all of their endorsements. C interest, the CLCV endorsed all statewide Demo candidates except Tony Miller for SOS. They made no endorsement in that race...

● **Mobilehome Rent Control Qualifies** - An initiative to eliminate mobilehome rent control laws has qualified for the March 1996 primary ballot. The measure was sponsored by a group called Californians for Mobilehome Fairness. During the qualification period, mobilehome residents started a counter-campaign to persuade voters not to sign the petitions...